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21 JAN 1964

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, OSA

SUBJECT: Aircraft and Equipment Destruct Systems

1. This subject is brought up with a great reluctance. However, I feel that avoiding it indefinitely will conceivably result in critical repercussions, perhaps jeopardizing the OXCART program in the future.

2. As you know, at the beginning of the OXCART program it was established that an effective device or devices would be required to deny certain incriminating evidence to the Government of the country against whom the vehicle was being employed. This requirement originated at the National Executive level of our government and, I assume, continues to occupy a place in the thinking of every responsible official in the "chain" when dealing with matters related to future employ of the OXCART vehicle on covert operations.

3. Over the months, during the past year or so, I have heard people who are supposedly close to the problems of destructor engineering suggest, intimate and state flatly that the requirement could not be satisfied per se - and in some cases not even to any acceptable degree. Further, the above philosophy apparently has been accepted and even formally acknowledged by some who are responsible for the development of the capability. My purpose here is not to fight the inevitable, but only to "clear the air" and insure that we in OSA are on top of the situation - and to insure that the facts are known to higher authorities who, presumably, are currently working under the false sense of security that the requirement is under control and evidently can be satisfied.

4. I strongly recommend that the entire subject of destructors and related matters be reviewed and a current status of capability prepared. Further, subsequent briefings should be scheduled with the

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This document contains information relating to the OXCART program

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purpose of obtaining a restatement of the requirement, or determining new directions for effort, establishing or reconfirming responsibilities, and in general get this question back in perspective where it can be properly managed.



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Lt. Colonel USAF  
Deputy for Field Activities, OSA

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D/FA/OSA/[redacted] hlm (20 Jan 64)

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